

Meeting was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Those in attendance was Deanna Kendall, Julie Crespo, Steve Sloat, and Larry Seibert

Julie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Deanna reported that she reached out to Gettysburg Seminary College and there were not a lot of deaths recorded during 1918-1920. The St. John's cemetery has records that go back to 1920. There are death certificates that go back to the late forties. She mentioned about the school building that was located within the cemetery (Grid 2 from PenDOT GPR Notes). Deanna said that there were possible cemetery records that were located within Peace Church.

Steve talked about how he reached out to Historical Society of Cumberland County (HSCC) and was working with Kara Curtis. He found out that the State started to require Death Certificates in 1906 with Cumberland County around 1910-1912. He also mentioned about the school located in the cemetery. It was called Peace Church School 1850. The school started as a log building and was torn down in the 20's then a brick building went up. Around 1951 Hampden Township owned the building and paid St. John's \$10 in rent.

From what Deanna research and from the information Steve got from HSCC they both doubt that the graves discovered in and out of coffins are not related to the Spanish Flu.

Larry reported that growing up in the area he has always heard that there were Native Americans buried in the cemetery, which could account for those graves outside of coffins. However, there is no concrete evidence to support it. He also mentioned that before 1860, wooden crosses were used to mark the graves and with the deterioration of the wood could account for a reason for unmarked graves. He mentioned how the area also contains a lot of limestone. (???)

As a result of our discussions and questions during the meeting, Larry is going to the Hamilton Library in Carlisle. He had gotten a lot of information on Shiremanstown when he was a Cub Scout writing a report. Steve is waiting on some further feedback from Kara as she is doing some research. Deanna is looking for a contact number for Friends of Peace Church. Both Julie and Deanna are interested in looking around Peace Church for any missing cemetery records or to find out if the Friends of Peace Church may know anything about it. Deanna is going to check on when vaults were required and when the cemetery roads were paved. Julie is going to look into the three "expected" headstones that were identified within Grid 1 that were located within the "formal" boundaries to see if they can give any hints to the three that were "unexpected" located within the "formal" boundaries.

The committee will communicate through emails until further information is found to schedule/hold another meeting.

Minutes submitted by Julie Crespo